(d) The production of new type PCOs which can be operated by inserting Re. 1 coin has already commenced. These will be introduced progressively.

Improving Rural Communication Services

4486. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Communications have designed new type of exchanges for quick rural communication system so as to link villages with Taluka, district headquarters and State Capitals all over the country by STD as well as international STD;

(b) how many such telephone connections have been given to the subscribers of rural areas in Gujarat so far;

(c) how many applications for new connections in such areas in Gujarat are still pending;

(d) what are the names of the villages in Gujarat where the Department has established STD or international STD on permanent basis; and

(e) whether his Department proposes to use indigenous machinery or imported one for such a venture?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH) : (a) Small capacity electronic exchanges have been designed by C-DOT & ITI for rural areas which can afford these facilities provided reliable transmission medium is available.

(b) Supplies have just commenced. No such exchange has so far been commissioned in the State of Gujarat. However, from existing electro mechanical exchanges, a total of about 30,000 rural telephone connections are working.

(c) There are 6180 applications in waiting list for telephone connections in rural areas of Gujarat as on 31-3-1988.

(d) None, Sir.

(e) The Department of Telecommunications propose to use mostly indigenously developed exchanges in rural areas of the country.

Natha Jagri Power Project

4487. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have given their approval for the setting up of Natha Jagri Power Project;

(b) if so, when the work on the project is likely to start and what is the projected outlay therefor;

(c) the authority which will be implementing this project;

(d) whether any proposal has been received from Rajasthan about

the distribution of power to be generated by this plant; and

(e) if so, what is Central Government's reaction to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) and (b) Investment decision for the Nathpa Jhakri Hydroelectric Project in Himachal Pradesh has not been taken so far. However, work on infrastructural facilities of the project is being carried out by Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board and a provision of Rs. 150 crores—Rs. 100 crores for the generation component and Rs. 50 crores for the transmission system—exists for the project in the Seventh Plan of the Central Government.

(c) The generation component of the project would be implemented by Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation and the associated transmission system would be implemented by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation.

(d) Government of Rajasthan had earlier requested for a share in the project.

(e) Besides Himachal Pradesh, all the States of the Northern Region including Rajasthan, would get their due share of power from the project in accordance with the formula for sharing of power from Central sector Hydro-electric Projects.

Haus Khas Telephone Exchange

4488. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the plans for further expansion of Hauz Khas Exchange under Delhi Telephones during the current year and during the next three years;

(b) the number of working connections in Vasant Kunj Sector 'A' and 'D' under Hauz Khas Exchange and the number of applications pending for shifting as well as for new connections there and by when these applications are likely to be cleared;

(c) whether Government propose to open separate Telephone Exchange for Vasant Kunj complex in view of its fast habitation; if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) what is the number of Remote Line Units(R.L.U.) at present working under the various Exchanges of Delhi Telephones, Exchange-wise and code-wise; and

(e) whether Government propose to open more Remote Line Units at Hauz Khas Exchange; if so, by when and what are the details regarding the number of lines and Exchange codes?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH) : (a) to (e) It is proposed to increase 1000 lines Hauz Khas exchange (Code 686) in the current year. Another 8000 lines (Remote Line Unit) is proposed during 1989-90 subject to availability of equipment supply.